

## DEVERLY LAUGHS AT HESS.

COMMISSIONER "SHOCKED" BY WIDE-OPEN POOLROOMS.

Hess Says the Captains Must Have Been Lying to the Chief—Did Anybody Hear a Horse Laugh?—Abell Thinks the Community Is Fairly Satisfied with Things as They Are—Croker and Freedman Have Reason to Be They Get All the Official Real Estate Sales and Bonds Nearly All the City Officials—The Controller, the Sheriff and Others Testify.

Police Commissioner Hess told the Mayor yesterday that the revelations about poolrooms were "shocking." At this Commissioner Abell and Chief Devery interchanged glances and laughed heartily. Mr. Hess admitted that he had been informed by the captains that they could not find poolrooms open or could not get evidence to close them. The captains must have been lying to their unsuspicious Chief. Indeed, he thought Devery might fairly be accused of neglect and he intended to do something about it; he couldn't say when.

When Commissioner Abell's turn came he said he thought the community was reasonably content with things as they are, but would "hall" any evidence that would enable him to better them. He was not prepared to do anything to Devery on the evidence as it stood, but he admitted that it was up to the board to do something. In the course of Abell's examination Mr. Hess suggested that perhaps the death of Police Captain O'Keefe at Martin Engel's birthday party just before the installation was not accidental.

It appeared from the examination of the Controller, the Sheriff and other officials that almost the whole of the bonding of city employees is done by Andy Freedman's company, which practically all officials and the present Crocker's firm of auctioneers, Henry B. Platt's company leads in the bonding of city contractors.

The committee, when it adjourns this afternoon, may not meet again until after the adjournment of the session of the Legislature. A decision about this will be arrived at to-day.

Hess a Strict Moralist.

Police Commissioner Hess took the stand again at the opening of proceedings. After he had testified to the evidence he had seen and heard, he was asked by the committee whether he had ever tried to have the beer of the Anchor Brewing Company, in which he is a principal stockholder, sold in Tondelino resorts, or that a diamond badge of office had been given to him since he has been a Police Commissioner. He answered that he had not.

Q—Do you think a certain badge should be given to pool selling in a city like New York? A—None whatever.

Q—Or the selling of liquor during hours forbidden under the law? A—No.

Q—Do you think that respectable women should be allowed to play their trade? A—Theatrical—No; I think the laws should be enforced.

Q—As a Police Commissioner, do you think the Chief should be compelled to enforce the law? A—Yes.

Q—Do you think it ought to be possible for the Chief, with all the machinery of the Police Department, with all the men and all the money at his command, to get evidence such as was adduced here yesterday? A—It seems to me that he ought to be able to, but it is up to him to get it.

Q—But if they don't find out these things and don't report them to the Chief, does it not? A—I suppose it does.

THINKS THE CHIEF NEGLECTFUL AND THE CAPTAINS LIARS.

Q—Then do you think that it is inefficiency or indifference on the part of the Chief when he doesn't compel the captains to report such things? A—That is his neglect.

Q—What do you think of a Chief who neglects his duty? A—He is neglectful.

Q—Well, you have read in the papers that poolrooms were being reported to the Chief. And while these things were being reported the captains were reporting no violations of the law? A—Yes.

Q—Did you then suspect that the captains were consistently and continuously lying? A—Yes, I did.

Q—The captains of what precinct? A—Of the precinct which was reported to be running in every precinct in the city.

Q—If a private citizen were to report such things, it seems to me the police ought to be able to get the same evidence if it's true. Did it impress you as being true? A—Yes, it did.

Q—It made a strong impression upon me.

Q—Why, then, did you not make an investigation? A—It has done so.

Q—And they reported that they couldn't get any evidence? A—Yes.

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to show by questions that Hess had divided the deposit between the two banks, on the understanding with President (Cohen) of the bank, that the clerk in that bank should take out bonds with the Freedman company. It was not until the day after yesterday that the Freedman company was called.

REARER SENDS HIS SALES TO CROCKER'S FIRM. Reuter was questioned as to how he secured his appointment as Commissioner of Highways. He said he didn't know, unless some of his friends in the district, which he is leader had spoken to somebody. He said he hadn't asked for it in the fall of 1897, and although he expected to get some sort of an appointment.

Mr. Reuter said that all sales he handled as a city officer he gave to Peter F. Meyer & Co., and that he had no idea of procuring a change in his position. Asked what company he was bonded to, he responded promptly, the Freedman Fidelity and Guarantee company, adding, in response to another question, that he believed this was the concern of the Freedman company. He produced a list which contained the names of eleven of his employees, all of whom are bonded in the Freedman-Crocker concern.

Mr. Reuter said that he got in his customary kick right here. Reflections on Crocker or Freedman stir his soul.

Q—Right, he said, "I want to go on record as demanding the presence of officials of the city at the board of the Freedman company, and I want to see that the company is investigated."

Q—Well, well, we'll see about it," said Mr. Hess.

COLER PUT \$10,000 IN THE WAR CHEST.

Comptroller Bird R. Coler was called. Mr. Hess asked him if he contributed to the campaign fund in 1897. Mr. Coler said that he contributed \$5,000 in New York county, giving him \$2,500 in the district of Columbia, and \$2,500 in the Tammany campaign fund, and \$5,000 in Brooklyn, this check being made out to the Freedman company. He said he spent \$2,000 or \$3,000 besides on incidentals.

Q—How did you happen to make these payments? A—Mr. Hess asked me to make them. Nothing was ever said to me about contributing to the campaign fund. I was nominated I went to Mr. Sheehan and told him that I was not a poor man and that I would like to give \$5,000 to the campaign fund. He said he would like to see me and I went to his office. He said he would like to see me and I went to his office. He said he would like to see me and I went to his office.

Q—You were in the board to act on your own judgment? A—No, I did it when I helped make Devery Chief.

ABELL ANSWERS REARER PERSONALLY. Mr. Hess tried to find out from what newspapers Mr. Reuter got his information. He read the names of a number of newspapers which Mr. Reuter said he read occasionally. He said he read the Herald, the Occasional, the Sun, the Tribune, the World, the Express, the Post, the Times, the Herald Tribune, the Sun, the Tribune, the World, the Express, the Post, the Times, the Herald Tribune.

Q—Do you believe in it? A—Not in it personally.

Q—Do you think it part of your duty to look into these persons? A—Oh, I have looked into them.

Q—What have you done about them? A—Answered that question.

Q—Did you ever get any answers? A—No, I don't recall now.

Q—Do you know why they did this? A—No, I don't know.

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and two Democratic Commissioners? A—No, it doesn't and you ought to know better.

Q—You say he reported to the board? A—Yes. Would you like to hear what the Mayor said to me? Yes, well, he just asked me if it was possible, and I told him that it was.

Q—You went into the board to protect the interests of the Republican members of the board, didn't you? A—I went in to do my duty. I don't know what the board did.

Q—You said that the board did not protect the interests of the Republicans? A—No, not especially so.

Q—But you found the Democrats looking out for their own interests after those of their party, didn't you? A—Yes, to a certain extent.

Q—In fact, the political end of your duties occupied some of your time and attention? A—Yes.

Q—Do you believe there should be any politics in the Police Board? A—I don't believe there should be any politics in the Police Board.

Q—Then wasn't Mr. Matthews correct in his complaint as to the board? A—Yes, I think so.

Q—You wouldn't take steps to protect the children playing on the streets from the contamination of those dives? A—No, I wouldn't.

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Q—Do you know what the Police Board did as a result of that investigation? A—We were ready to take any action that the board might take.

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